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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/718,128 | 11/19/2003 | James T. Olsta | 28570/10087 | 9107 |

4743 7590 06/19/2006

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EXAMINER

MENON, KRISHNAN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1723

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Interview Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/718,128 | OLSTA ET AL | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Krishnan S. Menon | 1723 | |

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Krishnan S. Menon.

(3) James Olsta, Inventor.

(2) Richard Anderson, attorney.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 13 June 2006.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☒ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☒ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: attached.

Claim(s) discussed: 12.

Identification of prior art discussed: White.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: attached.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Interview Summary

Applicant proposed an amendment to the claims, which is attached.

Applicant showed a graphic presentation of the use of the article in Anacostia river bed to prevent contaminants from leaching in to the river water while permitting ground water to permeate in to the river.

Applicant pointed out that White reference taught a water barrier article. White includes bentonite, a water-swellable clay, with other ingredients such as zeolite and carbon. Applicant's invention is a water permeable article.

In response, the amendment would require further consideration including search.

No agreement was reached.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S. Menon whose telephone number is 571-272-1143. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1723

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Handwritten signature of Krishnan S Menon and the date 6/13/06.

Krishnan S Menon
Examiner
Art Unit 1723

Docket No.: 28570/10087
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
James T. Olsta et al.

Application No.: 10/718,128

Confirmation No.: 9107

Filed: November 19, 2003

Art Unit: 1723

For: CONTAMINANT-REACTIVE
GEOCOMPOSITE MAT AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURE AND USE

Examiner: K. S. Menon

DRAFT AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 3, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. through 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a geocomposite article capable of sorbing, reacting with, or neutralizing a liquid-contained contaminant comprising:

providing a pre-formed geotextile mat having an apparent opening size in the range of about 0.5 mm to about 6 mm and having opposed major surfaces;

contacting one of the major surfaces of the geotextile mat with a powdered or granular material capable of sorbing, reacting with, or neutralizing the liquid-contained contaminant, and causing the powdered or granular material to flow into the pre-formed geotextile mat to fill at least a major portion of the pre-formed geotextile mat within openings of the mat, wherein the powdered or granular reactive material does not prevent the flow of water through the geocomposite article; and

adhering a liquid-permeable cover sheet to a major surface of the pre-formed geotextile mat with a water-insoluble adhesive after the mat has received the powdered or granular material.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further including the step of securing a liquid-permeable cover sheet to a lower major surface of the geotextile mat before filling at least a major portion of the pre-formed geotextile mat with the powdered or granular material.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including the step of covering edges of the pre-formed geotextile mat with a sheet material layer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the edges of the geotextile mat are covered with excess material from one or both of the cover sheets.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the excess material of the cover sheets are secured together to cover the edges of the geotextile mat by adhesively securing the cover sheets together over the edges of the geotextile, or heat-sealing the cover sheets together surrounding the edges of the geotextile.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the powdered or granular material is caused to flow into the geotextile mat by vibrating the geotextile while in contact with the powdered or granular material.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the powdered or granular material is caused to flow into the geotextile by applying a vacuum to an undersurface of the geotextile to draw the powdered or granular material into the mat from an upper surface.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 further including the step of providing at least one of the cover sheets having a dimension larger than the major surface of the geotextile mat to provide excess cover material so that the excess cover material extends over an edge surface of the geocomposite article, and securing the excess cover material to the geotextile article to cover the edge surface, thereby reducing or eliminating escape of powdered or granular material through the covered edge surface of the geotextile article.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, including the step of covering all edge surfaces with excess cover material, and securing the excess cover material to the geocomposite article thereby reducing or eliminating escape of powdered or granular material through all edge surfaces of the geotextile article.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the cover sheet is secured over the edge surface by an expedient selected from the group consisting of adhesively securing, needlepunching and ultrasonic welding.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of the cover sheets is secured over all edge surfaces by an expedient selected from the group consisting of adhesively securing, needlepunching and ultrasonic welding.

23. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a multi-layer geocomposite article having a geotextile layer filled with a powdered or granular material adhered to an adjacent geotextile mat containing no added powdered or granular material comprising:

providing a pre-formed geotextile mat having an apparent opening size in the range of about 0.5 mm to about 6 mm and having opposed major surfaces;

contacting one of the major surfaces of the geotextile mat with a powdered or granular material capable of sorbing, reacting with, or neutralizing a liquid-contained contaminant, and causing the powdered or granular material to flow into the pre-formed geotextile mat to fill at least a major portion of void spaces in the pre-formed geotextile mat, wherein the powdered or granular reactive material does not prevent the flow of water through the geocomposite article;

adhering liquid-permeable cover sheets to the opposed major surfaces of the pre-formed geotextile mat after the mat has received the powdered or granular material, to form an at least partially filled first geotextile layer; and

adhering a second pre-formed geotextile mat to the filled first geotextile layer.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the second geotextile mat has an apparent opening site in the range of about 0.5mm to about 6mm, and is at least partially filled with powdered or granular material after adhering the second geotextile mat to the at least partially filled first geotextile layer.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the second geotextile mat is unfilled.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, further including the step of adhering a liquid-permeable cover sheet to an exposed major surface of the second geotextile mat.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, further including the step of adhering a liquid-permeable cover sheet to an exposed major surface of the second geotextile mat.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of adhering a third pre-formed geotextile mat to an exposed cover sheet of the second geotextile mat.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further including the steps of at least partially filling the third pre-formed geotextile mat, having an apparent opening size in the range of about 0.5mm to about 6mm, with powdered or granular material, and securing a liquid-permeable cover sheet to an exposed major surface of the third pre-formed geotextile mat to form a geocomposite article having powdered or granular material in the major, outer surfaces of the article, and having an unfilled core formed by the second geotextile mat.

30. through 34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the geosynthetic article comprises the article of claim 1.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the powdered or granular reactive material is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, coke breeze, zero-valent iron, apatite, organophilic clay, zeolite, polymeric ion exchange resins, polymeric adsorbing resins and mixtures thereof.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the geotextile fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyolefin, polyester, polyamide, and copolymers of any two or more of the foregoing.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the pre-formed geotextile, prior to receiving the powdered or granular reactive material, has an apparent opening size in the range of about 0.5 mm to about 6 mm.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the powdered or granular reactive material has a particle size such that at least 90% of the particles have a size in the range of about 6 mesh to about 325 mesh.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the powdered or granular reactive material comprises about 50% to about 99.9% by volume of the geotextile mat.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the geocomposite article has 30 lb/ft³ to 100 lb/ft³ of powdered or granular reactive material contained therein.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the geotextile fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene fibers, polypropylene fibers, polyester fibers and polyamide fibers.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the pre-formed geotextile mat is non-woven.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the liquid-permeable cover sheets are non-woven textiles.

REMARKS

It is submitted that all claims are now of proper form and scope for allowance.
Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 28570/10087 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Richard H. Anderson
Registration No.: 26,526
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